

APR 28 2010

PROPOSED AMENDMENT**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) An embolectomy device for use in a blood vessel having a diameter, comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen extending therebetween, the lumen having a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end;

a vacuum source fluidly attached to the proximal end of the catheter to provide a source of vacuum to the catheter lumen;

a wire having a proximal end and a distal end and a center line extending therebetween that follows the path of the wire, the wire further having a proximal region, an intermediate region and a distal region proximate the distal end, said distal region including a distal tip, and the said wire being at least partially disposed in the lumen,

wherein the distal region of the wire includes a distal tip and a region proximate the distal tip having a maximum has a first proximal width perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lumen that is greater than the width of the distal intermediate region of the wire proximal of the distal tip and wherein the distal tip has a second width distal of the first proximal width that is less than that of the region proximate first proximal width of the distal tip,

wherein the distal region includes a distal taper and a proximal taper such that the distal taper that is more gradual than ~~that~~ the proximal taper.

50. (Currently amended) The embolectomy device of claim 49 wherein the ~~distal region has a maximum width~~ first proximal width of the distal tip that is less than half the diameter of the blood vessel.

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51. (Currently amended) The embolectomy device of claim 50 wherein the ~~proximate region~~ distal tip of the distal region has a curved profile with respect to the longitudinal axis.

52-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) The embolectomy device of claim 49 wherein the wire is configured to move rapidly along the longitudinal axis of the lumen proximally and distally.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) The embolectomy device of claim ~~[[56]]~~ 49 wherein the ~~first section~~ distal taper transitions gradually from the first ~~end of the first section~~ proximal width to the second ~~end of the first section~~ width of the distal tip.

58. (Currently amended) The embolectomy device of claim ~~[[56]]~~ 49 wherein the distal taper ~~first section~~ is at least twice as long as the ~~second section~~ proximal taper.

59-65. (Cancelled)